

## PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS—STANDING FOR THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US

## HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to be a member of the United States military is a gift, a sacrifice and it is an honor. Theodore Roosevelt said: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause." Every day our warriors risk their lives, and today I would like to pay tribute to a special group of at home warriors who stand for those fallen heroes who stood for us. They are known as the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Patriot Guard Riders are a group of motorcyclists who pay tribute to those who have died serving our country. Their mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen soldiers; upholding President Roosevelt's belief that brave soldiers who gave the utmost sacrifice for their country deserve respect and reverence during their final tribute.

Each of the riders missions have two objectives, to show sincere respect for America's fallen heroes, their families, and their communities; and to shield the mourning family and their friends from interruptions caused by protesters. They have the patriotic understanding that each of America's fallen heroes deserves respect.

Decked out in leather, wearing shades and bandanas, waving Old Glory and riding 500 plus pounds of steel, the Patriot Guard Riders are a terrifying but inspiring looking bunch. They have nicknames like Bronco, Dark Horse, Puddles and Wild Bill. They are right thinking Americans with big hearts.

The Guard is activated each time the military reports the death of a soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan. This nationwide organization of volunteers is very efficient. State Captains send out e-mails to members in the city where the soldier will be buried, and everyone jumps into action. They ensure that streets along the funeral procession are lined with American flags. Each mission is accomplished through legal and non-violent means. If protesters are present and become loud, the Patriot Guard Riders form a flag line, turn their backs on protesters, and will even drown the sound of the protesters by singing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

One involved Patriot biker, Rich "Boomer" Ford, a former Navy SEAL who served in Vietnam, is a retired Deputy State Captain and Road Guard Captain for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders. He is the man in charge of the "missions." If you ask Boomer why he rides, he will tell you that he remembers the lack of respect received when returning home from Vietnam. He wants to make sure that doesn't happen to these brave men and women. Boomer feels that each "mission" recognizes and honors the hard work our soldiers are doing for us overseas. These men and women like Boomer, who volunteer their time to help guard our Nation's heroes should be forever remembered for their honor and dignity.

I commend the Patriot Guard Riders for riding for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes

with hearts bigger than Texas. They show their respect for our troops, their families, and our community in an honorable way, one funeral at a time. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America. And that's just the way it is.

## REMEMBERING COLONEL DAVID A. MCCrackEN OF NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA

## HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the achievements of Colonel David A. McCracken, a graduate of the Army ROTC program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, who passed away on September 2, 2011 after a battle with brain cancer.

I, along with all Americans, am extremely grateful for his brave and honorable service in the United States Army during such an important period in our Nation's history.

Colonel McCracken's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with one silver and one bronze oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Bosnia), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with an "M" device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, NATO Medal and Army Engineer Associations and the Bronze DeFleury Medal.

His career was celebrated and his bravery unflagging, even as he received treatment for cancer. His service is an example of courage, dedication, and the values that make western Pennsylvania and our country great.

Our prayers, gratitude, and condolences go to his family in New Castle: his parents Theo and Laura McCracken, as well as his wife of 15 years, Tammy, sons, PFC Tyler Hindley and Connor, and daughter Maitlin.

## 9/11 IMPACTS ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRENDS

## HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present to my colleagues a succinct academic analysis written by Dr. Michael Czinkota of the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, and his fellow professors, Gary Knight and Gabriele Suder, regarding their analysis of the impact of 9/11 on the international business climate and the trends in globalizations. In light of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, I commend to you their observations.

## TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS—LOOKING BACK AND STRIVING FORWARD

(By Michael R. Czinkota, Gary Knight, and Gabriele Suder)

The airplanes of 9/11 forced countless multinational corporations (MNCs) to update their strategic planning. Our work with executives at more than 150 MNCs shows that ten years later, companies are still grappling with how best to manage the terrorist threat.

In the two decades before 2001, the rate at which firms launched international ventures was growing rapidly. After 9/11, foreign direct investment fell dramatically as firms withdrew to their home markets. The popularity of international-sounding company and brand names decreased appreciably as managers now emphasize domestic and local affiliations.

The tendency to reverse course on globalization has been accompanied by declining international education in the United States, as revealed by falling enrollments in foreign language and international business courses. In the past decade, managers shifted much of their focus from proactive exploration of international opportunities to a defensive posture emphasizing threats and vulnerable foreign operations.

In Europe, the radicalization of individuals and groups, motivated by ideology, religion or economic concerns, threatens local cooperation and social harmony. European business schools have benefited from tighter restrictions on international student enrollments in the U.S., but the focus of teaching has shifted from global to regional trade.

Another outcome of the terrorism threat has been a rise of public-private partnerships, in which governments and firms collaborate to counter them. For example, global police agencies now partner regularly with private firms to combat cyber crime and attacks on critical computer infrastructure. Governments and activist groups now use social media to organize campaigns fighting against threats ranging from dictators to disease. But nations also have begun to curtail social media when they are contrary to government interests.

The cost of protecting against terrorism is many billions, while terrorist spend millions or less on their actions. There are abundant opportunities for small groups to employ nonweapon technologies, such as aircraft, to cause massive harm. Though our capacity to protect key facilities has improved over time, the security focus on high-value assets encourages terrorists to redirect their violence at "soft targets" such as transportation systems and business facilities. Greater security at home means attacks will increasingly take aim on firms' foreign operations.

Companies have placed more emphasis on terrorism risk considerations when choosing how to enter foreign markets. In the last century, foreign direct investment (FDI) was the preferred approach. But terrorism has shifted the balance. Now many more firms favor entry through exporting, which permits broad and rapid coverage of world markets, reduces dependence on highly visible physical facilities, and offers much flexibility for making rapid adjustments. In terms of economies of scale and transaction costs, FDI is generally superior, but the risks of exporting are judged to be lower. Markets tend to punish failure more harshly than they reward success, which makes risk-minimizing strategies more effective.

Skilful management of global logistics and supply chains cuts the risk and cost of downtime. Firms seek closer relations with suppliers and clients in order to develop more trust and commitment. Some have increased "on-shoring" by bringing suppliers